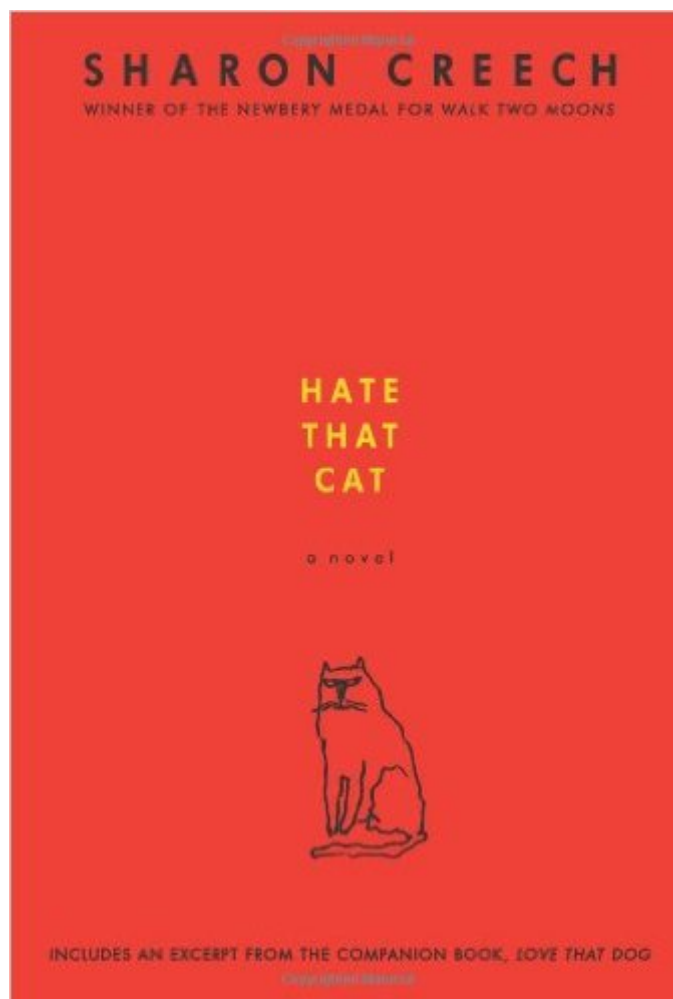


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# Hate That Cat: A Novel



## Synopsis

JackRoom 204â "Miss StretchberryFebruary 25Today the fat black catup in the tree by the bus stopdropped a nut on my headthunkand when I yelled at itthat fat black cat saidMurr-mee-urrin a nastypitefulway.I hate that cat.This is the story of Jackwordssoundssilenceteacherand cat.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 Reprint edition (February 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061430943

ISBN-13: 978-0061430947

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (71 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,705 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse #74 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals >

Cats #122 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

A college professor once told one of my classes that just holding a book could somehow impress on the holder the book's content. (Out of context this seems silly, but was very wise within context.) This time I must disagree with that dear professor. Holding "Hate That Cat" with its ugly red cover, then opening it and looking at the poetic forms inside made me snap it closed, put it back on the shelf, and huff: Why would I want to read a novel written in poetic form? Mercy me, sometimes I can be so silly."Hate That Cat" is one of the most touching, endearing, delightful, clever, entertaining, instructive books I've ever read. Written in poetic form based on the poems his teacher presents, the book outlines the thinking and writing processes of Jack, one young boy, not any boy, but a very bright, creative boy, one you would want as your student (if a teacher) or your child (if a parent). I was totally captivated by the character, the style of the book, the themes conveyed--not just one, but several, and left tear stains on the last 20 pages or so. This in a 148-page book.Here's one example of what I mean. Miss Stretchberry introduced the poem by William Carlos Williams (one of my

favorites, BTW) entitled "The Red Wheelbarrow."so much depends upon a red wheelbarrow glazed with rainwater beside the white chickens. So here's what he writes to Miss Stretchberry: "The wheelbarrow poem again? Did you forget we read it last year? Okay, here's one: so much depends upon a creeping cat crouched in the tree beside the yellow bus stop." Then he tells Miss Stretchberry that she will probably ask why (this is his journal) so much depends on that cat.

There are few things nicer than catching a glimpse of an upcoming children's book title and bursting into laughter at the cover. A nice laugh, of course. I don't suppose that many people thought that Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog* was in particular need of a sequel. It was a perfectly nice book but a succinct and, in many ways, self-contained verse novel. A slim little book, ideal for those reluctant readers who need to read a b...more There are few things nicer than catching a glimpse of an upcoming children's book title and bursting into laughter at the cover. A nice laugh, of course. I don't suppose that many people thought that Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog* was in particular need of a sequel. It was a perfectly nice book but a succinct and, in many ways, self-contained verse novel. A slim little book, ideal for those reluctant readers who need to read a book for class but don't want anything "too long" (oh, insidious phrase). It also happens to be one of the few verse novels out there that justifies the format, rather than just appearing as a series of randomly broken up sentences. Now Creech has followed up that acclaimed bit of verse with *Hate That Cat*, a logical extension to the previous title. In the first book Jack dealt with the death of his dog with the help of poetry. In the second, we learn more about his family and about some felines that challenge his resolve. When last we saw Jack he had learned to love the poet Walter Dean Myers and to accept that his dead dog was gone. Now it's an entirely new school year and Surprise! Miss Stretchberry is unexpectedly his teacher again.

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